

## Portrait of Senior Circuit Judge Choy Now on Display

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By OCE Public Information Office



*Circuit Judge Richard R. Clifton, left, and John McGuckin, Esq., executive vice president of the Union Bank of California, with portrait of Senior Circuit Judge Herbert Choy.*

Visitors to the historic U.S. Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals in San Francisco will find a new addition to the courthouse museum – a portrait of Senior Circuit Judge Herbert Y.C. Choy, the nation's first federal judge of Asian descent and the first judge from Hawaii to serve on the nation's largest and busiest appellate court.

The portrait, an oil painting, is on loan to the museum after being formally unveiled earlier this month. It will be moved to a permanent location elsewhere in the courthouse next year.

The portrait was commissioned by former law clerks and secretaries of Judge Choy, 87, many of whom were present for the unveiling ceremony held Dec. 8, in Courtroom One. Although Judge Choy did not attend, live video of the ceremony was transmitted to the district courthouse in Honolulu, where he has chambers, so that he and his friends and colleagues there could witness the event. A videotape also will be sent to Judge Choy.

Judge Choy was appointed to the circuit bench in 1971 by President Nixon, and took senior status in 1984. Prior to his appointment to the bench, he engaged in private practice in Honolulu for 24 years and served briefly as attorney general for the Territory of Hawaii.

At the unveiling ceremony, Chief Judge Mary M. Schroeder welcomed Judge Choy's many friends, family, former law clerks and fellow judges. One former law clerk who could not be present physically, managed to participate from afar. U.S. Rep. Christopher Cox of Orange County took part via a video feed from his offices in Washington, D.C. Earlier in the day, Rep. Cox gave a speech on the floor of the House of Representatives, honoring Judge Choy's 32 years of service to the judiciary and praising his upstanding character.

***"The opportunity to work with Judge Choy was the highlight of our lives and careers," Rep. Cox said, describing Judge Choy as "a scrupulously honest man, patient and abundantly fair. He was intelligently powerful, yet humble."***

Circuit Judge Richard R. Clifton, who also clerked for Judge Choy, paid tribute to his former boss, noting the many historical "firsts" he blazed in his career. Judge Choy was the first judge from Hawaii to serve on the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals as well as the nation's first Asian-American federal judge. ***"But even more remarkable are his human qualities,"*** noted Judge Clifton, who said that he learned many valuable lessons from him.

***"He taught me to render judgments without being judgmental...to disagree without being disagreeable," said Judge Clifton. "He understood that the law is there for the entire community and that it should be administered fairly."***

The unveiling of Judge Choy's portrait was conducted by former law clerk John McGuckin, Esq., executive vice president of the Union Bank of California. Mr. McGuckin noted that the oil portrait will be donated to the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals and that three digital photographs of the portrait will be made, with one being presented to Judge Choy, one to the federal courthouse in Honolulu, and another to Harvard Law School, Judge Choy's alma mater.

The portrait was painted by renowned Scottish artist Anne Mackintosh, who also has painted portraits of Margaret Thatcher, Nelson Mandela, and the Duchess of York.